

Sisterhood

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All her life Satsuki believed her baby sister to be dead, murdered at the hands of her immoral mother. Enduring years of abuse at the hands of her mother Ragyo, for the sake of revenge against the baby sister she lost. But now that its all over, she has a hard time adjusting to her new life and the fact her sister is alive. Platonic Satsuki/Ryuko, Aikuro/Ryuko, fluff, feels

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Chapter 1

I've decided to make a compilation of one shots involving the sisterly relationship between Ryuko and Satsuki

During the aftermath of how the series ended

please follow, favourite and review if you enjoyed it

If you have any ideas for platonic family moments between these two please leave in reviews or PM me with an idea

Thanks

Satsuki sat silently as she watched her sister and ex comrade argue relentlessly. She was more than used to this sort of thing happening nowadays and had just learned to block it out over time. She found their squabbles to be childish and kept away from them. However, she also felt it healthy to confront problems in a relationship instead of ignoring them, so she couldn't scold her sister for that.

She had been raised a lady by her parents, using her own inner strength to overcome what her mother had done to her. Despite the constant battle going on inside, she had remained level headed and never lost focus of her goals. Now that everything was over, she had found adjusting to a more peaceful life to be more difficult than expected.

Now that she was out of high school, she was the matriarch of the Kiryuin family. However, she now had to worry about future education. She had then decided to become a therapist or psychologist. Attempting to help those whom had been hurt the same way she had. Helping them overcome their demons and instead focus on their own inner strength.

Though she was indeed intelligent shown by everything she had been able to accomplish. She would still have to study to prepare

herself for unfamiliar territory. What was to come had been on her mind for a long time. However, their bickering was becoming rather loud and other people were staring. So, they should lower the tone of their voices before they frightened people and got the police involved.

Public disturbance was not something she enjoyed, as she found arguing to be problematic and annoying. But it was even more of a problem that it was her own sister whom was causing the disturbance due to a fallout with her partner. Why was it that her younger sister always had a habit of getting into trouble, one way or another.

"Y'know Ryuko. You've really come into your own since defeating the life fibres. Though I will forever cherish the memories of you in that uniform of yours, the jacket and mini skirt look good too" he teased. How she looked in her uniform was a memory he would never forget. How perfectly senketsu was bonded to her, the power they had shared together. But their relationship was destined to come to an end eventually.

Seketsu had been created as an artificial weapon to help her destroy the life fibres. When they defeated Ragyo his mission had come to an end, his last wish was for Ryuko to live. With the last of his strength despite knowing he would never see Ryuko again, he had sacrificed himself so she could see her loved ones again. No matter the cost.

Satsuki couldn't help but smirk, though he liked to play mind games with her sister. Anyone with half a brain could tell he was hitting on her. He had been attracted to her since the first day she transferred to Honnoji academy. Though unorthodox in a relationship, due to one being an erotic ex nudist and rebel leader. The other being a half sentient life fibre being and a teenage girl with issues. But they were good together.

Aikuro believed in her even when at her worst, he helped keep her level headed and rational. He gave her helpful advice and though in

riddle gave her the answer of how to overcome any obstacle. He deeply cared for and loved Ryuko, warning her of when to back off when an enemy or issue seemed to be too much for her to handle.

However, over time she had come to understand their feelings were indeed mutual. But Ryuko was truly a tsundere, clearly attracted to the ex-teacher but too stubborn to admit so. "You two are awfully clingy despite it being so early in the day" Satsuki replied calmly a hint of playfulness in her tone. Though she had nothing against their public displays of affection, she would prefer they waited till they got home to become intimate physically.

Ryuko blushed profusely, she had been trying to get him to knock it off. Knowing people were watching and her sister was here. But he just didn't want to listen and kept doing his own thing. "I... Its not my fault. Nudy boy didn't want to keep his damn hands to himself" she barked in defence. He was forever coming onto her like a dog in heat, though she loved the guy. He really didn't seem to understand two common phrases.

"Keep your hands to yourself", "Time and a place" and the ever popular "personal space". Its not like she was going to run off with anyone else, so he didn't have to watch and touch her every second of the day. She had simply wanted to come out today and spend time with her sister, but Aikuro had hoped to make things a date despite having spent time with him all day yesterday.

Aikuro chuckled, when she pouted like that it only made him want to tease her even more. "Your so cute when your embarrassed Ryuko, why else would I have trouble holding back?" he reminded her. Those bright blue eyes of hers that pierced him like a knife, that silky black hair of hers, those rosy red cheeks when she blushed. How could he not show his affections for her?

He found himself wanting to eat her up on the spot, the desire to kiss her regardless of whom was watching. He loved this girl and he wanted the world to know how he felt about her. To know a headstrong, smart and fiery tempered woman had claimed his heart.

That no matter who threw themselves at him. He would only ever want her.

Satsuki lowered her cup quietly, staring at them both blank faced. She then sighed heavily, honestly instead of babysitting one person she felt like she was caring for two grown children sometimes. Though she was adapting to the role of big sister slowly, she was becoming more than used to the perks and problems it came with. The biggest being having to look out for her sisters well-being.

Ryuko was 17 nearly 18, and after her own experiences after what happened. Maturing and settling in was going to be anything but easy. Especially after her bond with Senketsu was broken so painfully. However, Aikuro was 24 years old. He was a grown man and an ex leader of a rebel group against the life fibres. Surely, he knew his actions were inappropriate and not suited for the situation.

"Though I have no issues with you showing how much you care for one another. I do not wish for any nieces and nephews any time soon" she replied sternly. She was too young to become an aunt, as was Ryuko to be a mother. They had plenty of time to create offspring in the future, but she only ask they show caution on such a thing as neither were ready for such a thing.

This time it was the turn of the two lovebirds to be silent. Shock filling their systems as they realized the depth of the words that the older Kiryuin sibling had just said to them. Both of their faces reddened with embarrassment as they reacted to what she was insinuating. As well as the acknowledgement and acceptance of their relationship.

"S... Satsuki!" Ryuko stammered anxiously her tone filled with panic and slight anger. Just what kind of crap was she spouting! There was no way she was going to have kids, at least not yet. But then she peered at Aikuro who looked like he was about to cry. As big as a pain in the ass that he was, Aikuro was a very smart guy and pretty funny at times. When he wasn't being a pervert.

He had helped her from the very start, though his methods had been anything but normal. He had helped her form the relationship with Senketsu, he had told her about her father. He had helped her find the killer and even tolerated the abuse she threw at him because of her own frustrations of what was being thrown her way constantly. She had to respect that about him.

The idea of a kid having either his or her hair, along with either her stubborn side and resilience. Or his playful side and intelligence didn't sound too bad, they would be the best of both. Their child would be able to look after themselves, while also aware of how loved they would be. Having to pretty amazing parents that they could look up to.

Her eyes then widened as she realized what she was thinking, she was only 17. It had only been a couple of months since the whole battle against Ragyo and finally coming to terms with Senketsu's death. How could she even consider becoming a mother right now? She had so much other things on her plate to be worried about at this point.

She had helped Mako and her family move into their new home. Much better than their past one and now her parents ran a dual business which made even more of an income. Her father was still a back-alley doctor and made some money. Being the great cook that she was, her mother had now opened a small eatery where people went for a hot meal at the end of the day.

It was nothing big, but she had a stall in which she sold croquettes fresh from the fryer. People paid good money for them which helped to feed her kids and put money towards their education. Her eldest may have finished high school, but she planned on Mako attending college and making something of herself. Not following her fathers footsteps.

Her son would soon be attending middle school and he better not start any fights. Though it was useful in the streets to get by, it would get him nowhere in life. She wanted her son to become an educated

young man and meet himself a nice girl. She wanted grandchildren one day after all, not for him to become a slacker like his father.

She was now living with her sister in their old home. Though she had semi adjusted she wasn't used to living in such a nice home and having a roof over her head for once. The idea of family was something she was still getting used to. But in terms of the future, it didn't sound too bad. But just not for a very, very long time still. Not in the present future whatsoever.

Aikuro then wrapped his arm around Ryuko's shoulder, his blue eyes gleaming proudly. "I'll make her happy miss Kiryuin. Don't you worry about that" he replied in mock tears. He couldn't wait to see how cute a mother Ryuko would be. He didn't care how long he had to wait, he would see Ryuko in a real wedding dress one day. The day they said those magical two words and they belonged to only each other.

Coming home after a long day to find Ryuko with their future child, or he would even be happy as a house husband while Ryuko was the breadwinner. Either way didn't matter to him. He just wanted a family and a life with Ryuko, no matter what came their way. He just wanted to wake up to her by his side, every morning.

He had known Ryuko was the woman for him the day they met. There was a fire about her that he could not forget, never losing sight of her goals. To let her slip through his fingers was not something he could allow. She had grown as a person after the battle against Ragyo and separating from her Kamui, but her journey through all of it had only made her stronger.

Ryuko's face flooded with colour, just what crap was he spouting in front of her sister? Sure, they were dating but the idea of marriage. So far that was off the cards until she considered the idea. "Shut up you idiot! Don't say stupid shit like that in front of my sister!" she snapped. She knew her sister was joking, but the problem was Aikuro was far too serious about the whole matter.

As the pair continued to squabble a small smile started to form on Satsuki's cheeks. Though Ryuko was unaware of it herself as for the time being. Without a doubt, these two were meant for each other. They balanced one another out and needed the other more than they knew. But they could learn that in time.

C2: a happy home

So I finally updated this story after a year, I apologize for that

So at the end of the series Ryuko is living as the adopted sister of Mako and adopted daughter of the Mankanshoku family. Which would also mean Satsuki moved elsewhere to live after her house was destroyed after Ragyo released the life fibres at the last episode.

Anyway I hope you like and please leave a review, I'm working on new chapter ideas and will happily accept any input you may have

Satsuki tried to ease the panic rushing through her body as she walked further down the street towards her destination. This was a scenario she had never faced before, an alien feeling that she had never known in her life. She didn't know what to expect. It was certainly something she had never expected to happen, not that she disliked them at all. She was solely confused at why they would want to keep in contact with her. They were truly forgiving of her and seemed to brush off her past actions rather quickly.

Though they had looked past what they did and loved her as she was, her own personal demons still lingered within. How cruel she had been to people simply to further her own plans and gain the advantage. The people she had used and the people she had hurt without a second glance. The mistreatment of people she had shown but was trying so hard to move on from. Wondering if she was not supposed to be allowed to be happy, to live in self hatred of her own mistakes.

She had her happy memories torn from her at a young age, always having been a wise child. Causing her a great sadness at the losses she had endured and forced to accept. Finally gaining her baby sister back after believing her to be dead and having her dear father

murdered. Though she had remained strong throughout everything, her heartbreak was real. Though she had never cried, the girl inside of her had been a mess. Lost, alone, angry, upset and heartbroken that people she loved kept dying.

If not for the friends around her who supported her through it all, she didn't know how she would keep going. How she would keep hopeful that her plans would work out in the end. Even when there were things she could not tell them, they were still undyingly loyal to her through the whole endeavour. Grateful for their love and support to her through the years, always being able to count on them no matter how dangerous the task may be.

Ryuko had politely invited her some time ago to dinner with her new adopted family. Having lost their own they were legally orphans and had nowhere to go anymore. The painful bond they shared with each other was something they would carry with them their entire lives. They had known tragedy, hardship and loss for a great deal of their lives, moulding them into the people they now were. But sometimes she did wonder how their lives had turned out, if she and Ryuko had been raised together, if their mothers experiments had never taken place.

Satsuki now lived in an apartment in the city, their family home having been destroyed by the life fibre cocoon that Ragyo had been nurturing for so long. Everything about her miserable life was now ashes, a distant memory from long ago. But she was abandoning her dark past and making her way into a brighter future. After finally adapting to looking after herself, she found it more homely to live on her own. She had spent time on her own, doing the things she loved, using her intelligence for other means. Moving past her darkness and becoming someone new, someone no longer shackled by her demons. Having learned to rely on her own shoulders. The freedom of making her own choices, living without fear and having got her revenge. It was very peaceful, but still something strange.

It was the first time since Ragyo's death that she was going to experience a family dinner. Not even her friends had ever eaten with

her, the elite four never having ever stayed for a meal. It felt so strange to be going somewhere full of company, she had grown up used to an empty house. She had briefly known love and happiness when their father was still alive, but after he went missing to protect Ryuko. She had been raised by their monster of a mother and never saw him again, later learning of his death.

Mustering up her courage, she knocked gently on the front door of the mankanshoku front door. She had been given the address by Ryuko which had not been easy to find admittedly. However, she hoped she had not overdone herself, having tried to dress casual. The door soon opened and an always boisterous Mako opened the front door. A happy smile plastered on her face "Satsu-chan! Welcome" she cried eagerly. Since Ryuko was her best friend in the whole world and Satsuki was Ryuko's big sister, that made them in-laws, sort of.

Satsuki bowed politely, this girl had helped a lot during the fight against Ragyo and they had kindly taken in her little sister. "Arigato, I appreciate your invitation to dinner" she replied gratefully. Though she felt bad at getting a little lost on her way here. She had never really taken the time to visit or travel anywhere on her own before, let alone the area in which she lived. Given the large expansion that was the mansion she had lived in her whole life.

Mako hugged Satsuki tightly, taking her by surprise due to the fact she was not used to physical affections. It was something she was slowly adapting to. Mako then started to pull the older girl inside their house "Don't worry, mum made plenty. C'mon, C'mon" she cheered impatiently. Due to their excitement at a new guest, they ended up making way too much. So if she wanted to, she could take some of her mum's cooking home too in case she got hungry again later.

Satsuki blushed, even after all this time she was still not used to the energy of Mako, she was always such a positive person. Though her family was in poverty, barely made any money and never knew wealth. They had plenty of love, knew how to adapt and survive, taking heart in what small things they had. Not that she hated how

physical Mako could be, but it was a lot for her to handle. She had never really known a hug before.

"Welcome Satsuki dear, please sit" Sukuyo greeted sweetly. She was always happy to have guests in their home. Especially another lovely young lady like herself, and she was so polite. Her husband and son could learn a few manners from her. She had changed a great deal since they saw her last, her hair was shorter but it suited her so well. She also seemed much happier than before, more comfortable with herself rather than keeping a distance.

Satsuki sat down shyly at the table, she had never felt such a warm family atmosphere before. There was so much love in the room, radiating happiness. Though their home was slightly bigger from what they once had, it was cramped and not too spacious. But it still held their family together and felt homely. "Thank you for having me ma'am". She would have to find some way to repay for them for the meal, maybe she could bring cake next time and have a small tea party together.

Mako handed Satsuki a big plateful of croquettes proudly, "here, eat up". She must have been starving from the long journey to get here. It was only right she gets the first batch, fresh and crispy before her dad and Mattoro ate most of it. Food always made her happy when she was down, giving her the strength to keep going and look forward. They always said that food is the way to someone's heart, and they were not wrong about that. Her mum's cooking was the best for a reason.

"Oi, what about us huh? We gotta eat too" Mattoro whined. His sister was being awfully generous with the helpings of food. They were semi better off than before but they were still dirt poor. Hell, why weren't they having dinner at Satsuki's? She was still filthy rich. Why weren't they all enjoying some big banquet and going all out on the food? How come they had to serve the food to her? How come she wasn't the one making dinner for them?

Sukuyo glared at her son coldly, "We have guests now honey, now behave" she warned. She knew what would happen if he didn't. He wasn't a thief anymore, but he could do more around the house instead of shirking off his chores and being lazy. She had signed on for benefits after moving away, so they had a better income to take care of the family since her husband's business was failing. It would keep their family afloat should any mishaps in the future come about.

Satsuki took the plate of croquettes graciously, a heavenly aroma filling her nose. Happily eating her fill of the delicious fried goodness. They had so much more new flavours, real meat filling and even potatoes now. She had recently learned from Ryuko about them applying for benefits, so they could live a semi-decent life. Able to look after themselves better. She was glad this family was still thriving, giving her hope for the future, that things would work out somehow.

"Glad to have you here sis, it's been a long time" Ryuko replied warmly. After the destruction of honnouji and their graduation, she hadn't seen much of her sister. She knew Satsuki was soon applying for college, given she had just turned 19. They were finally piecing their lives back together, becoming normal people again. Accepting their losses and knowing their fathers soul was now at peace. Moving on and finding their passions in life, working out who they were going to become.

Mako wanted to get a part-time job and go into medical school to become a doctor like her father. Only better so she could truly use it as a career, to support herself, and help take care of those in need. As proud as she was of her father, Ryuko assured her she could learn more in school. She knew Mako had a hard time focusing, but if she pushed herself enough she knew she could do it. She just had to motivate herself more instead of others for once.

Ryuko was applying for college too, only she wanted to work more in the law department. She wanted to help those who deserved justice, having been wronged or needed help. Maybe she could become a lawyer or even a police officer. There were plenty of little girls that

needed help, girls around their age who needed help, she could act as a role model to them and make sure they never suffered like she and her sister had.

Satsuki smiled shyly, but her expression was full of love for her baby sister "It has, I'm glad to see you are flourishing after our fight with mother. Finally, our lives know peace" she sighed. God knows how crappy their lives had been until now. Ryuko had started out as bitter, antisocial, lonely but driven, now that she had made friends and a place for herself. She had started to show the softer side of herself she had kept locked away for so long.

Ryuko blushed, in her own way Satsuki was telling her she was happy for her. Given she was raised in a rich household, she would never really stop speaking like a lady. "Y'know, if you need help, me and Mako and can help set up your new place" she offered. This was a big step for her, unlike herself who had been raised in an orphanage and lived from town to town. Satsuki had lived in comfort all her life, she was finally spreading her wings and knowing freedom. Now she could have a normal life as she had always longed for.

Satsuki chuckled under her breath, Gamagori, Nonon, Uzu and Houka were all going to help too. Though no longer in the elite four and having moved on with their lives, they were still loyal friends to her. Wishing to help her settle into her new home. Since it was a tradition, they could have a moving in a party together "of course, please bring more croquettes, they will be welcome". They were such a simple dish of breadcrumbs, meat and vegetables deep fried. But they were soothing, comforting even. For all the fancy dinners she had ever eaten, this food was different. It warmed her insides, making her feel happy and full. They brought people together.

Ryuko grinned, she had come to acknowledge her sister's newfound love of croquettes and thought it was rather cute. Though she wondered if her sister knew how to cook for herself. If not she and Mako would help her out no problem, she knew a thing or two given

she had to look after herself all this time. "You got it sis" she agreed eagerly, she couldn't wait to see her sisters new home.

"Get home safe now dear" Sukuyo called worriedly. It wasn't safe for a young girl like herself to walk home alone. Perhaps Ryuko could walk her some of the way until she was in a better area. She may have been strong but she could still be taken advantage of. The idea of something bad happening to her upset her greatly, I mean who else did she have to worry about her given her mother had been a very wicked woman indeed. She didn't mind acting as a mother to another teen.

Satsuki nodded, appreciating the genuine love this woman carried. Unlike her own mother, she carried a natural maternal streak even for children that were not her own. Wondering what her life had been like if both herself and Ryuko had been welcomed into this home. "I will, I have a backup just in case" she explained, revealing a wooden kendo sword and pepper spray. One could not be too careful and it was all she would need. Anyone who dared to attack her would pay dearly indeed.

Ryuko and Mako stood out in the street to wave her off.

"Bye Satsu-chan, come back again real soon K?" Mako called. It was so nice seeing her again and it was fun having her over for dinner. She had never had any sisters and she looked at Ryuko and Satsuki as family. So when they all spent time together she felt really happy.

"Bye Satsuki, take care and see ya soon" Ryuko called. It was great to see her sister again, and after their mum died. They had been able to truly bond properly and adapt to their relationship as sisters. Making her realize how lonely she had been, it felt nice to have her small family grow bigger.

Satsuki hummed, her smile once more returning to her face. She was so lucky to have these people who cared so much for her.

Happily accepting her even after the tyranny she had caused while at Honnouji. They were truly good people. She then waved goodbye to them before setting off on the long road home.

C3: Matchmaker

I know I haven't updated this story in awhile I apologize, things have been stressful over here but I'm trying to get back into writing. However, here is another update to this story and some minor Sanegeyama/Satsuki

please review, follow and favourite

Ryuko hummed to herself, bouncing her leg on her knee as she stared at the ceiling as she tried to fight boredom. She had decided to visit her sister for the day and catch up. Aware they had a lot of time to make up for after their many years of being separated as children, clinging to the small family they had left. Realising how fun it was to actually have a sibling. But since then, Ryuko had become curious to her friendships with the elite four. "Hey Satsuki, what's the deal with you and Sanegeyama? I know you kicked his ass in middle school, but how come you don't make a move?" Ryuko asked curiously. She could sense the chemistry between them, the way he looked at her with such adoration.

Whenever Ryuko or anyone for that matter insulted her he had been ready to cut them apart. He was cocky but for good reason, he was skilled at Kendo and like her a past delinquent, so he had a reputation. But Satsuki had put him in his place and he had been respectful of her ever since. I mean not many guys would admit to being defeated by a girl and then the latter allowing him to spend time with them. The guy looked at her like she was a goddess incarnate, which usually only meant one thing, a severe crush. The guy was always trying to fight her battles instead so she never got hurt. Keeping her furthest away from battle despite her competence with a blade. He never let anyone so much as approach her unless they were one of the elite four or a close friend or family. Acting as her unofficial guard dog at all times, no wonder Nonon called him a doggy.

Uzu was always looking for a fight to prove his worth, though he had become humbled after losing his sight and being defeated by Ryuko. However, he was strong willed, determined and never backed down from a challenge. The guy was admirable when he wasn't being a pain in the ass, but he was at least respectful. Ryuko had to admit she had never met a guy so determined to constantly prove he was worthy enough to stand by her older sisters side. He was the kind of guy most girls dreamed of in a boyfriend.

Satsuki sighed, it was only natural Ryuko ask questions, after all until a year ago they had no idea that the two of them were even related. Building on their biological bond slowly until they came to act more like sisters. She had no issue with sharing her past, now that it was all behind her. The two had come to understand one another's goals and their reasoning behind their actions. However had softened around one another, but their rivalry had become sibling and competitive rather than actually trying to kill each other like they used to. "He's fought my battles, putting his life on the line so I could finally accomplish my goal to defeat Raygo once and for all. Gamagori was my shield, Sanegayama was my sword, well at least he was. Now he is free to do what he wishes, it is no longer my business" she explained calmly.

His pride was something he held in high regard, so far as to blind himself to make his fighting talents better. He was dedicated to protecting her and making sure her dreams were met. But now everything had changed. After being pushed by his friends to make a move, Gamagori was now dating Mako after having been crushing on her since their school days. Still weak to her cuteness and hyperactive excitement for everything in life. Nonon and Houka had finally awkwardly admitted their affections for one another, making a rather unexpected but cute couple all the same. Houka teasing Nonon for her stubborn nature as he was able to read her like a book, and Nonon taking an interest in his hobbies. Ryuko had even given into her pride and accepted a date with Aikuro, admitting he wasn't such a bad guy now that he was finally living a life wearing clothes.

They had no reason to be bound to her anymore aside from friendship, they no longer had any enemies to be worried about. Ragyo was long since defeated, the life fibres were gone and didn't plan on coming back. Honnouji Academy had been destroyed and there was no need for a stronghold fort. Everything they had worked towards had now been completed. Sanegeyama had no need to defend her anymore, he could finally lay down his sword and act as a normal man could. Yet, leaving them behind did make her feel terribly lonely.

Ryuko smiled at her reassuringly, she knew it was hard to create a normal life after the hell they had been through. Ragyo having tormented and tortured them individually since the day they were born. She had shamed and abused Satsuki for years in hopes of making her food for the life fibres, to no avail due to Satsuki's iron will. However, Ryuko had nearly been a puppet due to her fragile psyche and panic of being part of the life fibres. But they had managed to overcome that part of their lives, but it was not so easy to forget as people would assume. She reached out to grasp Satsuki's hand fondly, she knew how scary it would be. But she needed to take the first step and make sure Satsuki gained her happy ending too. "You deserve to be happy sis, mum is gone now. You got the revenge you always wanted. You're free to spread your wings and finally live" she replied obstinately.

Satsuki shifted, gripping Ryuko's hand tightly for support. She had spent the light nineteen years of her life plotting revenge against Ragyo. She had only recently adapted to her newfound life of normality. Romantic dating had never been an option to her until now. However, in terms of partners, Sanegayama was certainly not ugly. Underneath his gruff, stubborn impulsive nature, he was a passionate person and had a great sense of kindness to those whom earned his affection. "I... suppose" she mumbled shyly.

Ryuko smiled proudly, it seemed when it came to romance and not revenge, her big sister was awkward. Never taking the time to think outside of the box. But it seemed they both had that in common. At

times though she had been dating Aikuro for some time, she still found herself flustered by his bold gestures of affection. But she wouldn't give up on her sister and she would do her best to help her find love of her own. She then gripped her phone, dialling in Sanegeyama's number before Satsuki could protest. She took a deep breath and mustered up her courage as to not allow this guy to hurt her sister, or he would answer to Ryuko. "Yo Sanegeyama, my big sis wants a word with ya!" Ryuko called down the phone loudly.

Satsuki blushed, nearly lunging over the desk in an attempt to snatch Ryuko's phone from her hand. Her face the colour of a strawberry, glaring at Ryuko impatiently. "Ryuko!" she hissed, what on earth was she thinking? She appreciated that her sister was concerned with her lack of romance in her life, but she didn't need to interfere so much. She was capable of making rational decisions on her own. Aware her sister now had free reign to say embarrassing things that would make her look foolish.

"Satsuki? Is something wrong?" Sanegeyama asked in concern. Why was Ryuko using her sisters phone and why did Satsuki sound so distressed? Wondering what the younger Kiryuin was up to. He had become very aware that in her own confusing way Ryuko was indeed as intelligent as her mother and sister, however she was rather chaotic with her plotting. Never truly making sense until the last minute, an impulsive person but someone who followed through. But she was still a troublemaker.

"Nee-chan was just wondering if you were free this weekend" Ryuko smirked, grinning back to look at a distraught Satsuki. If Satsuki refused to make a move on the guy, she would play wingman and do it for her. She would willingly invite Sanegeyama over and leave them alone in the house if that's what it took. She would make sure these two became a couple no matter what it took. She wouldn't allow these two to continue ignoring their blatantly obvious feelings towards each other anymore. It was becoming annoying to watch.

Satsuki panicked, biting her tongue as she tried to calm herself down. Just what the hell was she up to? Her voice slipping into

nothingness, the blood rushing from her face. Even Sanegeyama was silent down the receiver. What if he believed it to be a prank and became upset, distancing himself from her? She had hoped to figure out her feelings in her own time but though she meant well, Ryuko could never just leave things be. She would have to explain herself when they were alone, hopefully mending the damage Ryuko had now caused. She snatched the phone from Ryuko, the latter grinning proudly at her prank, Coughing shyly in preparation of what she was about to do. She could feel herself trembling with anticipation. "H... Hello, Sane... I mean Uzu" she replied nervously. She hadn't called him by his first name in years, feeling so felt so wrong, but they were no longer classmates anymore.

She could no longer refer to him solely by his last name, they were far too familiar for that now. But old habits died hard in that sense and despite her comfort in calling him by that. It didn't make any sense now that they were so intimate. She had hoped to build a new bond with him on her own terms, but that was no longer an option for her. Opening up about her romantic feelings for him, how she appreciated his companionship. Aware of his rivalry for her affection with Nonon which she found amusing at times.

Sanegeyama coughed awkwardly down the phone "Lady... I mean Satsuki-san" he quickly corrected himself. It had been so long since they spoke in person, just the two of them, aware she had cut her hair since then. She was still a strong woman, never letting her past get the better of her, but now she was able to work through her conflicting feelings in a healthy manner. Having gotten therapy some time ago to work through the damage her mother had done to her. Surrounding herself by loved ones to make up for her toxic past. He was proud of her personal growth and how far she had come.

Satsuki panicked, she could feel her body starting to shake from the nerves. She had faced life fibres, her psychotic mother, her father's death, losing her sister and then finding her again then creating Honnouji academy. Yet here she was shaking like a leaf at the prospect of a date. It was unknown territory to her, both frightening

and very exciting indeed. But she couldn't back down now, it would be cowardly and rude. "I... I was wondering, since you have your senses back. If... If you would care to enjoy that tea you promised me" she babbled, aware of how strange she sounded. She knew how simple it was, that there were many activities they could experience together to be sociable. However, it was something they both carried a mutual memory over and would make things comfortable. Something to fall back on if they were anxious and didn't know what to say. Slowly working through their mutually complicated attractions towards one another.

Ryuko snorted, god this was both hilarious and adorable, who knew Satsuki was so awkward. She wanted to go to a café with the guy? But then again it was a good first date given how shy her sister was to romance. She would have suggested they both go to a movie then get dinner, or maybe crash at his place and practice kendo fighting. Something that would involve their mutual interests, she never saw Sanegeyama as the kind of person who enjoyed tea.

Sanegeyama perked up, remembering the promise he made to Satsuki all that time ago, Back when he gave up his sight to fight for her. A date with Satsuki? A reward for his years of loyalty to her? Just the two of them alone and able to talk intimately about their feelings? That sounded amazing. He would have to read up on all first date tips to ensure that she enjoyed herself and he acted like a true gentleman. "YES!" he blurted out suddenly without thinking. Aware of how eager he sounded, when had he become such a coward? His head was a mess and his heart was racing, but it felt amazing, like he was bouncing atop a cloud.

Satsuki stood stunned by his eager outburst, but smiled fondly at his response, He hadn't changed after all these years "Good, I'll see you this weekend" she agreed. The two of them would have plenty of time to recollect their memories and share fond moments from the past. Being able to reminisce and make new memories, learning about how much their lives had changed since their time apart from

each other. She had much to prepare for, but she knew Ryuko and Mako would help her look decent for her date with Sanegayama.

"Yes milady, crap I mean.... Satsuki" he babbled, quickly hanging up before she could respond. God why was he making such a mess of this, in his head he expected to act much cooler when it came to organizing a date with Satsuki. So why was he acting so childish around a girl, god he felt like an idiot. But he had plenty of time to make up for that in preparation.

Ryuko snorted, wondering how long Uzu had been crushing on her sister. Let alone that despite them no longer being students, he still referred to her as Lady Satsuki. But they would make a cute couple regardless. Sanegayama was an impulsive guy but he cared about her sister's feelings and would never do anything dishonourable to her. He held her at such a high regard that if he so much as sensed that he had messed up in some way he would sulk about it for weeks until Satsuki would reassure him otherwise.

Satsuki sighed, turning to glare at Ryuko's smug smile, having fallen into her trap. Aware this was what her sister had been planning from the very beginning, she couldn't help but mentally praise her sister's strategy. But she wasn't getting off so easy on her mischief "Not a word Ryuko" she warned coldly. But she was indeed happy at the prospect of a date.

C4: A new family

So I haven't done a chapter for this story for ages, I've been working on some other works I hope to get published. As well as some personal issues, I hope you like the update

Satsuki paced around her flat impatiently, contemplating her options, she had handled worse situations under higher stress with ease. Everything she had faced in the past was far worse than this. So why was she trembling and scared shitless? The prospect of the unknown? Now that she was an adult, she needed to learn to take care of herself, though her father had died and Ragyo was an abusive tyrant, Soroi had always taken care of her. Her father had been kind, loving, complicated but highly intelligent, he had fallen for her mothers charms but grew wary of her true nature. When he ran away with her baby sister she feared Ragyo killed them both. The baby sister she feared she had lost found her way back. Despite forging her own path, she realised how naive she truly was and how little she knew about the world outside the one she had known. But she needed to learn independence, she needed to take care of herself and stand on her own, making choices. She no longer needed to worry about battle, facing an enemy, the world was safe. So she could focus on her life, what was important and more rational matters. One thing she needed was to learn to cook, to sustain herself and make meals. Soroi had always done that for her, preparing her tea, her meals, and taking care of her since she was small. She knew it would take time and she would have a lot to learn, she could always take lessons, she had the money for it. However, a cooking lesson felt impersonal and no different from Hojou Academy, the clutter, noise and social anxiety of having to speak to people felt uncomfortable. She wasn't ready to face that yet, slowly easing herself into her new life, she knew her friends would always be willing to help. But she couldn't ask that of them, they had done so much for her as it was, but maybe someone else could be of service.

Satsuki bowed in the doorway of the Mankanshoku family home, since the destruction of their home, their family had been able to afford a nicer place to live. They had been a great ally to Ryuko when she first arrived in Honno city, taking her in, feeding her and helping her through every situation. As chaotic as they were, they were kind hearted and had good intentions. Mako's father was no longer a shady back alley doctor and instead worked for a proper clinic and was popular with elderly residents. He made a decent income and was genuinely skilled at his practice. With her cooking being so popular, Mrs Mankanshoku started a family business of purely croquettes, being able to get ahold of better ingredients, she started a food truck, allowing them to make more money. Finally able to give their children a better life. "I apologise for being a bother, I'm aware of how late it is. But after becoming an independent adult, I realise there is a lot I don't know about taking care of myself. So I have come here to ask for your help" Satsuki asked. She had called in advance to let them know she was on her way as to not travel so far and inconvenience them. She had been cautious of danger on the way and even brought her sword in case of danger. She was well aware they would be trying to relax, enjoy dinner, sleep and other things.

Sukuyo smiled, the one cold and harsh girl she had been melted away, the person she was previously was merely formed from her home environment. A result of the resentment towards her mother and the trauma she endured. Now she was able to show her true nature, to act like a girl her age, a softer, shyer and even awkward side of Satsuki had come to light, she was such a polite young lady. "Satsuki dear, if you want me to teach you how to cook, you only need say so" she smiled.

Mako's eyes beamed with delight as she peered over her mother's shoulder, she hadn't seen Satsuki in ages, she looked so pretty with her short hair. Ryuko had mentioned she had a crush on Sanegeyama, were they dating now? They had so much to talk about "Woohoo! I get to sample the cooking" she cheered.

Ryuko was lingering nearby, surprised but happy to see her older sister visiting, they had been communicating regularly but life kept them apart. Ryuko was looking into college while living with her new family, Satsuki was forming a new business, living peacefully and forming new hobbies. After forming weapons for so long to fight against Ragyo, she was looking into new investments. She was relieved Satsuki was coping so well after everything, she was blossoming into the person she was always meant to be. But she would always be the intimidating badass she remembered who was briefly her enemy. However, she couldn't help biting back a laugh and smirking with amusement. In this situation she had the upper hand, growing up, having been abandoned by her dad at the boarding school and then living nomadically after his death. She had lived off of whatever she could get her hands on, when he was alive he just gave her money to eat whatever she wanted. After he had been murdered she had to scrounge a lot more, fighting for her meals. Having Mrs Makanshoku cook her meals regularly and never going hungry was a blessing. If Satsuki learned to cook she would be crashing at her sisters more often, being able to enjoy dinner together. Though she enjoyed croquettes, they were rather fattening and she could do with some other cooking. She could use some variety in her diet and she knew Satsuki was smart enough to learn all sorts of amazing dishes. But she was glad Satsuki was taking bigger steps to becoming independent. She stepped forward making herself known "You'll do great Satsuki, Mrs Mankanshoku is a great cook" she encouraged.

Satsuki blushed, hearing her sister boost her up and give her encouragement meant a lot, she was trying, she really was. Due to being raised in wealth by Ragyo, she never had to learn any of these things, instead she had servants at her beck and call. She had the sort of life people envied and dreamed of, the perfect little princess, but her life had been anything but happy. She knew money didn't bring people happiness, it certainly never had for her anyway, her life had been full of heartbreak and trauma. She still had money and would for the rest of her life, she would never have to worry about being hungry or homeless. But now she wanted to learn how to live,

how to be normal, to use the money she had to make her happy, based on her choices. "Arigato, I won't let you down, I will fully insert myself into your lessons and properly educate myself on the ways of cooking" she stated proudly.

Mako leaned towards Ryuko curiously, they were family so surely she had some inside information. They had all sorts of private talks about their childhood memories "Hey Ryuko, didn't Satsuki look after herself?" Mako asked. She had been raised an only child believing Ryuko was dead, their mother had been a bitch. But she was surprised Satsuki wasn't raised with this knowledge, wasn't it common sense with rich people? Being taught to be the perfect bride.

Ryuko laughed, Satsuki always had someone watching over her and taking care of her. Her mother had raised Satsuki with example so she was pure pedigree and fitted her image. "Nah, until now the elite four were at her beck and call and Soroi pretty much raised her" she explained, she could imagine them all freaking out at the news and trying to be supportive, wishing her good luck. Soroi was getting on in years and he wouldn't be around forever. Satsuki was taking control of her life slowly, changing and growing for the better.

"Oh, so Satsuki-san is growing up" Mako replied, Ryuko nodded. Mako grabbed Satsuki by the shoulders, staring intently into her blue eyes "Don't worry Satsuki-san, my mums croquettes are the best. With her you will make awesome food" she encouraged. She was learning to be a grown up which was scary and overwhelming, so much to learn about and remember. But she wouldn't be alone and they would support her. Everyone made mistakes and it was how you learned. But her mother was a good teacher and soon she would be cooking all sorts of goodies.

Satsuki blushed, as manically hyper as Mako was, she meant well with her words, she was giving her the courage that she would accomplish this. She could sense her worry and was trying to distract her. As odd a girl as she could be, she was a comfort to her sister and herself "Arigato Mako-chan" she mumbled.

Sakuya and Satsuki stood by the cooker, both wearing aprons, "Ok Satsuki, so first we chop everything evenly, it won't be perfect at the start it takes time" she smiled. Making sure everything was balanced, even and portioned correctly helped a lot. Assuring there was no waste and everything cooked properly. Satsuki nodded, slowly taking the knife in hand, watching Mrs Mankanshoku intently, observing her to assure she made no mistakes. "So we slice, raise the blade slowly and then cut through the food. Bouncing on the heel but being careful not to hurt ourselves" Sakuya explained. Satsuki swallowed, they were making croquettes with chives, pork and apples, it was another new recipe that had been formed. She had to admit it sounded delicious and would perhaps go well with some form of apple chutney. She slowly raised the knife, cutting through the apples, making sure the chunks were even. "That's great, remember nice and slow, when you are more experienced and confident, you can chop faster" Sakuya praised, making sure she didn't hurt herself by being too eager was key. Though some damages could happen in the kitchen to even the most experienced chef, it always helped to be prepared for anything. Satsuki nodded, watching the ingredients intently as she chopped, smiling a little to herself as she did so. A warm tingling feeling filled her stomach, this was the homely feeling she had never known growing up, why Ryuko was so happy here. She remembered being small and watching Soroi cook, how fascinated she had been with it, he would be proud if he could see her right now.

"Then we boil the apples until soft, but not too mushy. We can use a small knife or toothpick to check. We al dente the pork before we put it in the croquette and cook it" Sakuya explained. Satsuki was a fast learner which she appreciated, she was a handy little thing in the kitchen too. She was delighted to be able to teach her these lessons, the same she had taught Ryuko and Mako.

"WOOOW! These are amazing Satsuki-san! You gotta become mum's assistant" Mako praised, inhaling the croquettes. These were the best she had ever tasted, nearly as good as her mothers. She

had no idea that Satsuki was a natural in the kitchen, how had her skills been wasted all this time? She needed to get into the cooking business.

"You're a natural sis, who knew" Ryuko agreed, she must have learned somehow, maybe she had watched soroi growing up and memorised the skills. She couldn't believe how skilled Satsuki was, she was multitalented, it was rather impressive.

"So she's cute and she can cook, she'll get a hubby in no time" Mr Mankanshoku beamed.

Satsuki blushed, she felt a sense of joy in knowing she had created something that people enjoyed, a homely feeling that made her feel safe. Being able to bond with them with such a simple pleasure, sharing laughter and memories. Sakuya had made plenty but she wrapped up some for Satsuki to take home for her dinner, saying she had earned them and she wouldn't have her going hungry. "It's on the house, after all you are family to Ryuko too" she soothed. Satsuki had never been kindly praised her whole life, she had always fought for her place and was aware of how cruel the world was. Sure when she was in a position of power, ruling Honouji, most had been scared of her or merely business partners. Nobody had ever said anything kind to her purely because they meant it, it was a nice feeling. She took one of the croquettes, dipping it in sauce, biting into it tentatively, worried they may just be being nice to spare her feelings. The fluffy taste of potato, crispy breadcrumbs, soft tender pork, spices, chives and sweet apple hit her tongue. She moaned in delight, the flavours dancing on her tongue and filling her with satisfaction. She could see why Ryuko lived off these, they were addictive.

Sakuya and Satsuki sat quietly at the table, Ryuko and Mako had done the dishes and had been asked to take a bath. Leaving her and Satsuki alone to talk "Satsuki dear, while I do love your regular visits, I do worry about you being alone" Sakuya contemplated. She had urged both Ryuko and Satsuki to get therapy to overcome their

trauma's, such as losing their father, their abusive mother, losing Senketsu, their abandonment issues etc. The two had been through so much for two girls so young. Ryuko even admitted her anger management and emotional outbursts had gotten better. She no longer harboured hostility and wasn't so quick to become angry. While Satsuki had become better at conveying her emotions rather than bottling them up, she found it easier to cry, she could admit vulnerability easier. She could admit her weakness, she didn't wear a blank face as much to hide. She became comfortable with showing affection and admitting when she needed to talk about something. Years of having to hide her weakness, her vulnerability from Ragyo, so she couldn't use it against her.

Satsuki shifted, tucking her hair behind her ear, she didn't want to burden Mrs Mankanshoku more than necessary. She had 3 mouths to feed and soon Ryuko and Mako would be looking into colleges. The last thing she wanted was to put unnecessary pressure on her. "I'm very capable, the elite four watch over me and I'm coping well alone" Satsuki reassured her. Sanegayama was rarely ever away from her, he was looking into joining the police and protecting others. He always visited for tea and he sometimes crashed for a film. She had become used to his companionship and found herself feeling lonelier when he wasn't around. His previous laid back and cocky behaviour had melted away, though he still goofed off and annoyed people. He was loyal, protective, driven and fun loving, he was the only elite four member who hadn't strayed and found their own path, he stayed.

Gamagori had become very attached to Mako and the two had become dating after he confessed his feelings for her. While Mako wanted to become a food blogger and taste all kinds of delicious foods, Gamagori was happy to become a house husband or work in the law somehow. Though intimidating and honour bound, through Mako and Ryuko, he had learned not every situation could be controlled. However, his blatant masochism had been rather obvious and amusing for everyone, but for Mako, she had been surprised but very accepting.

Nonon, her childhood friend had admitted her feelings for Houka as much as she hated to admit it, being childhood friends they kept close contact. After everything with Honnouji Academy and Ragyo, she checked in a lot and made sure Satsuki was coping ok. Her arrogance had lessened but she still harboured an immense amount, she loved Satsuki dearly and considered her family. After learning Ryuko was her sister, she had softened towards the latter and helped Satsuki repair their bond. Knowing she would be ok but making sure she never felt alone. She was looking into a music degree in college and said that she would blow everyone else on her course away in awe. Houka being the smartest of all of them, had been accepted into numerous colleges, though he could easily start his own business if he desired. He took great pride in his data and the information he could collect. Which he decided to aid Satsuki with in her future business but also starting his own. He supported Nonon's desire to join a music college and implied he would become her manager. He had an immense respect for Satsuki and Ryuko after everything they had been through. Though he indeed teasing the people he now called friends.

Sakuya smiled "You are a very capable young woman, but even you have trauma, the same as Ryuko. You have a lot to work through and I worry being alone isn't good for you" she comforted. Satsuki had already proven what she was capable of, a driven, intelligent and brave young woman, that couldn't be denied. But she had a family, one she had made by herself and ones she had found. But she chose to remain in isolation which she worried about. They were orphans, albeit rich ones, their father was murdered when Ryuko was a sixteen after he went into hiding for fifteen years, Satsuki believing he was dead all those years. Their mother had been abusive and tried to brainwash Ryuko and did worse to Satsuki. However, they had peace now, freedom to do as they wished. Satsuki using her money had bought them a new home, she had no reason to do so and they could happily forge their own path. They would make money somehow and go wherever their path lead them. But she insisted, saying they were family and she needed to repay them for their kindness. A small three bedroom home, able to run

their business there, her husband's clinic was on the lower floor, she had a food truck nearby. It was cleaner, spacious and was better kept, allowing newer customers to find them and feel welcome. Mako had a spacious room she shared with Ryuko, she and her husband had their own room, as did Mataro which he shared with the dog. They all had their own space, they weren't cluttered, crowded and could provide for their children. Ryuko had a home she always wanted, a better one and more spacious, though she was just happy to have a roof over her head. Sakuya enjoyed being able to teach Satsuki to cook, to have her among the family, knowing she had been alone for so long. She never wanted her to feel like a stranger.

Satsuki blushed "I like the quiet, after being in Ragyo's shadow and watching over my shoulder for her presence. Being able to have peace is a breath of fresh air. Being able to live on my terms" she admitted. She could breathe, she could open the door and enjoy the silence, knowing nobody was watching her. Nobody would darken her doorway and everything was to her taste. She could keep her tea set in the cupboard and use it whenever she wanted. Learning to brew tea herself and enjoy it. She could discard the shield that had protected her for so long. She could act and feel like a teenager, the youth she spent fighting, she could now breathe easier.

Sakuya reached out to take her hand "You've come a long way and I'm so proud of you. But you don't have anyone to keep you company. You are still young and you need someone to take care of you" she reminded her. Everything that Satsuki had been through, any other girl would have broken under that pressure, but Satsuki's resolve was too strong. Shown by how far she had gone to fight her mother. She felt a sense of pride knowing Satsuki was such a strong person. But she worried that Satsuki was too independent, that she put up walls and hesitated asking for help. She had many people who loved and admired her, who would always be there for her. She squeezed Satsuki's hand supportively "Ryuko loves you as family, though reconnecting after everything has been an adjustment, she never stops talking about you. She misses you a lot. I won't make you move in with us, not when you are happy where you are. But,

I'm happy to legally adopt you as one of my own" she smiled. Ryuko was always texting her, always thinking about her, happy to know she had family and she wasn't alone. She was so used to having a sister in her life that not seeing her as often made her lonely. She wanted Satsuki and Ryuko to bond, to be able to have a close relationship.

Satsuki blushed, Mrs Makanshoku, a complete stranger, who had enough on her plate, running a family business and raising her kids. She was going to adopt her as well as Ryuko? She knew she was planning on sending both the girls to university, pushing them towards their future. She couldn't ask Mako's mother to do such a thing, to become responsible for her. She had already known a mother, someone who gave her life. But proceeded to abuse her, to treat her like a lab rat. This kind of nurturing, maternal love, selfless kindness, she wasn't used to it "I... I can't ask this of you" she babbled.

"You don't need financial aid, you've always been a responsible young lady. But you were never nurtured, loved or cared for. If you ever get lonely, sad or have any sort of trouble, you come to us ok? And don't forget to call or video chat sometimes" Sakuya pressed. Satsuki had been born into wealth and made plenty of profits, business partners and alliances while she was running Honnouji Academy. She didn't need money and she would never have to worry about it again. But when was the last time she was hugged? Comforted, had someone to take care of her. Support her? Nurture her? She wanted Satsuki to rely on them for any reason at all.

Satsuki felt her eyes stinging with tears, she hadn't cried this hard since her father died when she was a small girl. Knowing he had been forced to run away due to her mother, making Junketsu for her, her own Kamui. Her father had tailored it knowing Satsuki would unlock it's true potential. The relief of knowing her life was her own, that she was loved and she was safe. First the F4 and now the Makanshoku's, her family was getting bigger, she was cared for by so many. Though just like her mother she had hurt so many to

achieve her goals, she had formed many allies too "Arigato" she whimpered, she couldn't stop them from falling.

"Wait? So Satsuki-chan is part of the family now too? So I get to call her sister too?" Mako beamed

"Hai" Sakuya smiled, she reached out to stroke Satsuki's head as she sobbed, comforting the girl while her tears fell. She had been holding these in for so long and now she could let them fall freely.

"YAAAY" Mako squealed

Satsuki held the bag of boxed of croquettes in her hand tightly, the smell making her mouth water, she was glad she asked Mako's mother for the recipe. She couldn't believe she was leaving with legal adoption papers, meaning these people would be her family. She and Ryuko would be bound together, they would never lose each other ever again. They could continue their new lives together. "Thank you again, you've done so much for me, I truly appreciate everything you've done".

"Oh don't you worry dear, it's always a pleasure having guests. Visit anytime you like" Mrs Mankonshoku beamed, she knew Satsuki had a busy life and she was working on a new business herself. But she expected Satsuki to be involved with them, be it for any reason at all even if it was a surprise visit. Ryuko and Mako had enjoyed her company and was good for them to bond together. Even if Mako and Ryuko visited Satsuki's flat and they all watched films together and had a sleepover.

"Bye Satsuki-san" Mako beamed, waving eagerly with the biggest smile on her face. No doubt she would be gossiping to Gamagori later about Satsuki being adopted by them. The two of them were dating and Mako was very affectionate and heavily communicated with him. Meaning the elite four would know about this eventually too.

Ryuko approached, her features softened and a look of worry formed on her face. But she could see the look of love and happiness in her sisters eyes. Knowing they would always be together now "Get home safe, there are some weirdo's out there, and call me later" she pressed. Ryuko couldn't help but worry, after everything she was still cautious. It was something they would never be able to let go of, that gnawing feeling of danger.

"I'm sure I can handle them, but I promise to call as soon as I reach home" Satsuki smiled, Ryuko could still handle herself in a fight, by instinct. Her past of having to fend for herself was rooted too deep, her rebellious soul. Satsuki hadn't needed a sword since Ragyo's demise and the destruction of life fibres, but she would always have it, just in case. That knowledge that danger was something familiar to them.

Ryuko smirked, that sass that Satsuki had shown when they first met had never truly faded. She would never back down and she had a strong resolve. Nobody picked a fight with Satsuki and got off easy, making sure they never messed with her "Geez, so much for me worrying" she scoffed. She may have been the younger sister, she may have been the baby, but she would always be protective of Satsuki. Satsuki had suffered as much as she had, as shown by her tears earlier. Satsuki's resolve had gotten her this far, but she had her regrets, burdens and trauma. Robbed of a childhood they would never get back.

Satsuki hesitated, before hugging Ryuko warmly, enjoying being able to embrace her sister. Being together like this, being able to rekindle the lost sibling bond that was severed by force. They were finally happy, they were finally at peace "It was nice to see you again Ryuko, we need to make more time to bond, we have lost enough time" she reflected. She had spent the last 2 decades of her life without her, believing she was killed and plotted her revenge against Ragyo. With the knowledge that Ryuko was alive and her sister had survived filled her with joy. They had a lot to make up for, new memories to make and stories to tell.

Ryuko smiled, she had always believed herself to be an only child until she realised she was Satsuki's little sister. They both had mixed feelings for a long time before forming true sibling affection for each other. After she got to know her, Satsuki wasn't all that bad and she could see why the Elite four loved her so much "You got it sis". Satsuki bowed before heading in the direction of home, dinner in hand.

C5: A simple cup of tea

Yeah, I returned to this series after long last. If anyone has any update ideas or suggestions let me know.

Satsuki sat peacefully on the balcony of her home, ever since she moved out she had missed the way Moroi made her tea. His passing after the destruction of Honnouji academy had truly devastated her. The one familiar and constant part of her life was gone, raising her better as a guardian than her mother ever had, becoming as dear to her as her late father. She had few people she could trust left in her life, opening up to others and being vulnerable wasn't something she was used to. She had always been guarded, concealed and cautious. She could never stumble, never falter and never fail, but now that life was behind her. She had no more enemies to fight, no more dangers to face and no need to save the world. The life fibres were gone, the enemy was gone and she could just be a person. But she missed her beloved butler who was always by her side, the person she could confide in when she was at her lowest. Though his tea was bitter, it had been comforting to her, a familiar taste, the tea never tasted the same now. So many changes had occurred in her life she could barely recognise them, it was like it was someone else's life. The sun beaming down on her from the balcony, overlooking the city she now lived in.

She had once held a grudge against people, all mindless creatures that never questioned anything. All of them below her as she saw them as inferior to herself. But she learned to cast aside that mentality, learned to think beyond her previous mindset. Coming to find allies in her greater purpose and realise she had more people than she realised who would stand by her side. Gazing down at the bustling people below her, watching them go about their lives. Now that she had completed her mission, she could now breathe easier and blend in among them. She could find happiness in simplicity, living a mundane and normal life. She didn't miss the mansion she

was raised in, she had enough of the insurance from her home, the company and Ragyo's inheritance and pension. She was set for life and shared some of that money with Ryuko whom had her own inheritance. She had never considered how she would live her life once it was all over, what would become of her. She had never planned that far ahead, as prepared as she usually was. With Ragyo dead, no longer darkening her doorway or hiding in the shadows, she could relax. The monster that killed her father, that hurt and traumatised her, humiliated her, she was now gone. She could live a normal life.

It was such a strange feeling, being able to sleep peacefully, wake up in her own space. Knowing that she would never have to need a Kamui again, Junketsu was gone along with Senketsu. The endless quiet was comforting yet eerie, knowing that no dangers lurked. She could decorate and shape her own space to her fitting, nothing grand or expensive as she used to reside in. But a modest and smaller home with enough space for herself. The bed was big enough for Uzu to share with her when he stayed over and some of his belongings were here too. She had everything she could possibly need. She had made a blend of tea, enjoying a cup to herself with some homemade cookies from Nonon. Enjoying her day with a familiar ritual that reminded her of happier times, fonder memories. The Elite four always checked in, always made sure she was ok, that she was coping well, living their own lives but still loyal friends to her. Nonon had finally admitted her crush on Inumuta and the two formed a relationship together. Gamagori was now dating Mako and had become a familiar face in her families life, he even helped Sukuyo Mankanshoku at their new business. She found it comforting, knowing that they still remained and loved her, despite all she put them through. She had asked so much of them, dragged them along through all of it, defeating Ragyo. Opening up to them about all the hurt and the pain Ragyo had caused and inflicted onto her.

Absentmindedly running her fingers through her short black bob, finding peace in finally moving on with her life, finally forgetting the pain and the loneliness. She had never thought she was deserving

or capable of such life, that she would ever be free of the shackles of her past. That her actions came with consequences and not everyone would forgive her. Accepting that she hadn't just been a warrior, but a victim and a child, while most children were happily living carefree lives she was forging her path. Casting aside her grief, her pain and using her anger to beat her mother, turning her resentment, rage and bitterness towards the woman responsible for it all. That the loss of her loved ones wouldn't be in pain, she would hold their memories dear and fulfil a promise. Her father had been a great man, a genius, always one step ahead, forming alliances with nudist beach, creating the Kamui in secret and leaving one each to his daughters. Assuring that they had protection against Ragyo, that they would be able to beat her. Grateful to the lessons her father taught her, grateful for the legacy he left her, but also grateful to Moroi for keeping her grounded and helping nurture the humanity within her. Suddenly she looked up, hearing footsteps approaching, she had learned to hone in her instincts from a young age as to never be caught off guard. It was a habit she had never learned to lose, always using it in case necessary. The click of a key and the front door opening, the sound of someone entering her home. Turning her head as a warm smile spread across her cheeks, she had been expecting her and here she was.

Ryuko shyly lingering in the doorway, wearing her black jacket with bat wings on the chest and skull on the back, wearing a pair of ripped jeans and an old shirt. A nervous look on her face, her cheeks flushed from the journey it must have taken to get here. She wasn't used to being invited to places, she was used taking care of herself and watching her back. Everyone in her life was an enemy with ulterior motives, she hadn't had friends before, she hadn't been to Satsuki's new flat before either. Ryuko had always been a solitary creature, always alone and always withholding her emotions, reacting with anger and suspicion. But she was learning to trust, learning to confide in others and learning to be kinder.

Satsuki smiled, that's right she wasn't alone anymore, she still had family in the most unexpected places. She had rekindled her bond

with her long lost baby sister, the one she believed Ragyo ripped from her and destroyed. She hadn't expected her to survive or for their father to have hidden her away. Somehow they had been brought together again and could protect one another as their father would have wanted. "Welcome Ryuko, you have no reason to be shy we aren't strangers" she smiled, holding out her hand to join her at the table.

Ryuko removed her shoes, shyly joining her at the table, her house was a lot nicer than she expected especially for a flat. But then it was very different from what Satsuki was used to. It was very homely and strangely neat, but it was very fitting for Satsuki indeed. The scent of tea and cake filling her nose, causing her stomach to grumble at the mention of food. She hadn't yet given Satsuki a housewarming gift and she felt bad for that, but then she was working with the Mankanshoku family business and her paycheck wasn't much. "Woah, nice view you got here sis" she hummed, she had to admit she had considered a place of her own too. She carefully sat at the table next to Satsuki, gazing at her older sister with admiration and love. Since Ragyo's death, she knew her sister was still recovering, she couldn't imagine the demons she was overcoming. After learning about what Satsuki had endured while she was raised by their mother, she realised how awful it had been for her. The elite four had always had her best interest at mind, always protected her and always loved her. Learning to live on her own, learning to live as herself, learning to heal from the trauma. Learning basic tasks to look after herself that she was never taught, it was never something she had to consider. Knowing she had no more enemies, learning she didn't have to be scared anymore.

But she wasn't used to polite situations like tea parties, her father had never been the bonding or nurturing type. He never showed her the same love that he showed Satsuki and was too concerned about being discovered. She wasn't raised by a socialise businesswoman and a psychopath like Satsuki was, learning how to live as a lady while scheming against your abuser. Satsuki had been taught this from adolescence, it was ingrained into her psyche.

Satsuki poured her a fresh cup, not even spilling a drop, calmly pushing the cup towards Ryuko "careful, still hot" she warned. She could burn her fingers which wouldn't be pleasant. Ryuko shifted, tentatively picking up the cup making sure not to drop it or spill any, it smelled good and she knew someone like Satsuki would make the ideal blend. The colour was rich and dark, gazing into the cup with a curious expression. She and the others had been to a car boot sale and found second hand china for Satsuki, knowing how much it would mean to her. She carefully blew on the cup, before taking a sip, it wasn't a flavour she was used to, but the taste was good. Thinking of the croquettes Sakuyo made, how golden, greasy and delicious they were. "I apologise for the taste, I'm not the expert Moroi was, but it should be palatable" Satsuki apologised, she was still learning many new things. Nobody had complained about it but she always worried they lied to save her feelings.

Ryuko smiled, she had never had such fine tea leaves before, wondering where Satsuki managed to obtain them from. Warming her from the inside out, making her feel calm and comforted. Through all the misery Satsuki had endured, Moroi's tea had been a constant in her life, though he was now gone, she still carried on that tradition. "It's good" she hummed, she would need to ask Satsuki where she got it so she could get some for Sukuyo.

Satsuki hummed, gazing into her teacup reflectively, she had so many fond memories of drinking tea. The brief moments of happiness in her life had been brief and fleeting. She treasured them all and reflected upon them fondly. Moments she would never replace and she would never be able to get back. "This tea was once so bitter to me as a child, but over time its flavour came to comfort me. Now that he's gone I have to blend it myself, but it never tastes the same" she sighed. She remembered the first time she tasted it and was disgusted but never had the heart to tell Moroi, learning to like it. All she had left was the memory.

Ryuko hummed, neither of them had a normal childhood, neither of them had many happy memories or pleasant moments. Genuine

kindness wasn't something they had ever been used to. She would understand why it would mean so much to Satsuki, enduring Ragyo's abuse and authority, knowing her father was murdered and she couldn't stop it. Losing everyone she loved while scheming against the killer, one simple cup of tea that had brought her such joy. Now the person who made it was no longer around, she would never see him again and that would break Satsuki's heart. She hummed to herself, taking one of the cookies Nonon made, she could do with learning how to make some. "Man, our family has some weird tastes" she laughed.